

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02  
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-----107332 152326Z /66

R 152047Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5716  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USUN NEW YORK 765

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3733

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, TECH, AR  
SUBJECT: CNEA PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OUTLINE OF  
ARGENTINA'S POSITION ON VARIOUS NUCLEAR ISSUES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3702

1. IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN MAY 13 IN BAHIA BLANCA,  
CNEA PRESIDENT CASTRO MADERO STATED THAT:  
ARGENTINA WILL NOT MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS;  
THE GOA IS STILL CONSIDERING BOTH CANADA AND  
WEST GERMANY AS POSSIBLE SUPPLIERS OF THE  
ATUCHA II POWER REACTOR; INTER-NATIONAL SAFEGUARDS  
PROBLEMS ARE HOLDING BACK THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY  
FOR THE FULL SCALE HEAVY WATER PLANT TO BE  
BUILT IN ARROYITO AND THAT, THEREFORE, THE GOA IS PROCEEDING WITH  
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PILOT HEAVY WATER PLANT  
AT ATUCHA.

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2. IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW, FOREIGN MINISTER  
MONTES REITERATED THE GOA'S OPPOSITION TO THE  
NPT BECAUSE IT DIVIDES NATIONS INTO TWO CATE-  
GORIES: THOSE WHICH CAN AND THOSE WHICH CANNOT  
HAVE ATOMIC WEAPONS. HE REFERRED IN PASSING TO  
THE TLAATELOLCO TREATY AND INDICATED THAT UP UNTIL

NOW ARGENTINA AND CUBA HAD NOT RATIFIED IT. HE AFFIRMED THAT THE PURPOSE OF TLAHELCO IS TO ESTABLISH A ZONE FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL USES. HE ADDED THAT THE GOA GIVES PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE SSOD WHICH WILL FOCUS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE DISARMAMENT PROBLEM IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER.

3. COMMENT: CASTRO MADERO'S REMARKS APPEAR DESIGNED TO CORRECT EARLIER REPORTS THAT THE GOA HAS ALREADY AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR ATUCHA II TO THE WEST GERMANS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ATTACK OF THE NPT FOLLOWS WHAT WE UNDERSTAND IS THE GOA'S GAME PLAN FOR PREPARING PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT RATIFICATION OF TLAHELCO. GENERAL VIOLA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR MAY 12 TO EXPECT SOME STATEMENTS AGAINST NPT. BY FOCUSING NEGATIVELY ON THE DISCRIMINATORY NATURE OF NPT, GOA HOPES TO DEFLECT PUBLIC OPINION FROM ITS TURN-AROUND ACCEPTANCE OF THE NON-DISCRIMINATORY TLAHELCO. CASTRO

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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